

Sherwood Public Library Internet Filtering Analysis

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Prepared by Adrienne Doman Calkins, Library Manager

Background:

Sherwood Public Library uses software called Envisionware, available to all WCCLS member libraries, to manage internet access at public computers, computer reservations, and printing. Member libraries may configure Envisionware to fit local needs. While Envisionware has options for internet filtering, this option has not been enabled at Sherwood Public Library.

Envisionware offers the following options for internet filtering:

- Unfiltered access: no categories filtered
- Adult Filtered in the following categories:
 - Child Pornography, Explicit Art, Obscene/Tasteless, Pornography/Adult Content, and Malicious Code/Spyware.
 - Adult Filtered can be set as an option presented at login to choose filtered or unfiltered internet, with a default of filtered.
- Child Filtered in the following categories:
 - Alcohol, Child Pornography, Chat, Criminal Skills, Cults, Dubious/Unsavory, Explicit Art, Gambling, Hacking, Hate & Discrimination, Illegal Drugs, Malicious Code/Spyware, Obscene/Tasteless, Personals/Dating, Pornography/Adult Content, R Rated, School Cheating, and Terrorist/Militant/Extremist.
- All filtering settings can be assigned at the individual computer level.

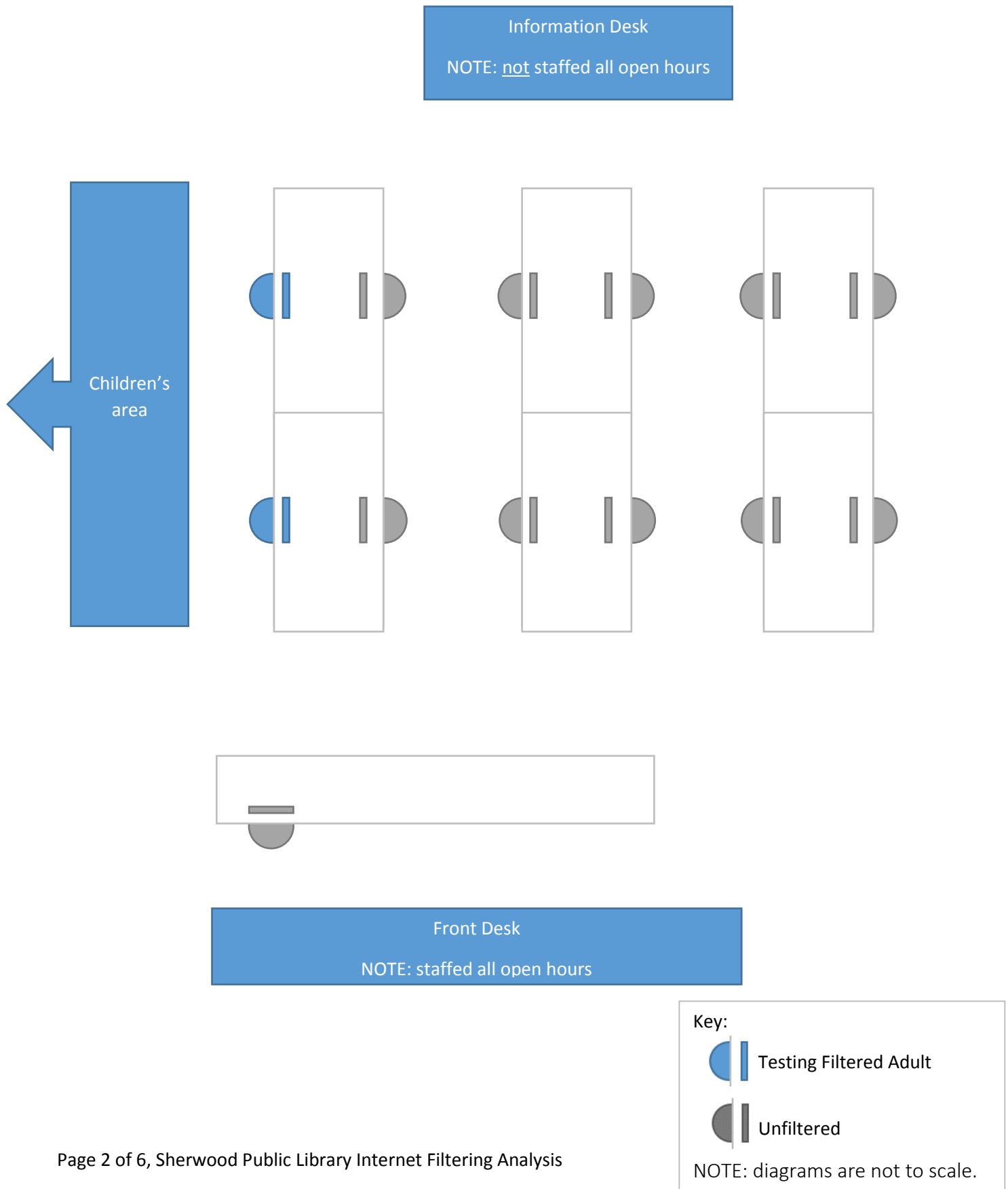
Are there Federal requirements to filter internet access in public libraries?

Filtering is required for libraries that receive Federal funding through E-rate discounts. Filtering for these libraries must meet the requirements for the Child Internet Protection Act. Sherwood Public Library does not receive Federal funding. See resources here: <http://e-ratecentral.com/CIPA/>

What about patrons' right to have access to information?

Sherwood Public Library upholds the American Library Association (ALA) Library Bill of Rights, Code of Ethics of the ALA, the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements from ALA, as well as first amendment rights. We also have a local Behavior Policy and Public Computer and Internet Use Policy which have been approved by the Library Advisory Board and Library management in order to provide a welcoming environment where all are equally and safely entitled to use of the facility. Library policies incorporate fifth amendment rights to due process before a person can be excluded from public services.

The current configuration of the public internet computers:



What filtering settings are used by libraries in Washington County?

Library	Children's computers	Teen computers	Adult/General computers
Banks	n/a	n/a	Children 12 & under are Child Filtered; Teens over 12 and under 16 are Adult Filtered; Adults 16 and older have Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option. Guest passes are Child Filtered by default (can be changed by staff).
Beaverton	Child Filtered	Adult Filtered	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option
Cedar Mill	Child Filtered	Adult Filtered	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option
Cornelius	n/a	n/a	Adult Filtered default. Children 12 & under are Child Filtered. Guest passes are Child Filtered by default (can be changed by staff). Laptops are unfiltered (must be age 18 to checkout).
Forest Grove	n/a	n/a	Unfiltered
Garden Home	n/a	n/a	Unfiltered (screens all face staff desk)
Hillsboro	Adult Filtered	n/a	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option
North Plains	Child Filtered	n/a	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option (screens all face staff desk). Have privacy screens available for loan.
Sherwood	n/a	n/a	Unfiltered, with the exception of two computers closest to the Children's Area being tested for Adult Filtering. No problems have been reported.
Tigard	Child Filtered	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option
Tualatin	Child Filtered	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option
West Slope	Child Filtered	n/a	Unfiltered/Adult Filtered option

Recommendation:

Based on the facts that:

- Internet computers at Sherwood Public Library are intended for general use; are used primarily by adults, teens, and sometimes school-aged youth; are located in proximity to the Children's Area but typically not used by young children without a parent or caregiver;
- Common practice Countywide is to offer the choice for Adult Filtered/Unfiltered internet at all general-use public computers;
- The Adult Filtered option filters pornography, explicit art, obscene content and malware;
- And that while internet filtering has improved in recent years, there still are times when content is mistakenly filtered;

I recommend Sherwood Public Library internet filtering settings be changed to include both Adult Filtered and the option for Adult Filtered/Unfiltered internet, as illustrated in the following two options diagramed in the Appendix.

Next Steps

Following City Administrative and legal review, a recommendation can be implemented by local library staff. The Library Advisory Board meets next on October 19 and can advise on related changes to the Public Computer and Internet Use policy, which was already scheduled for review.

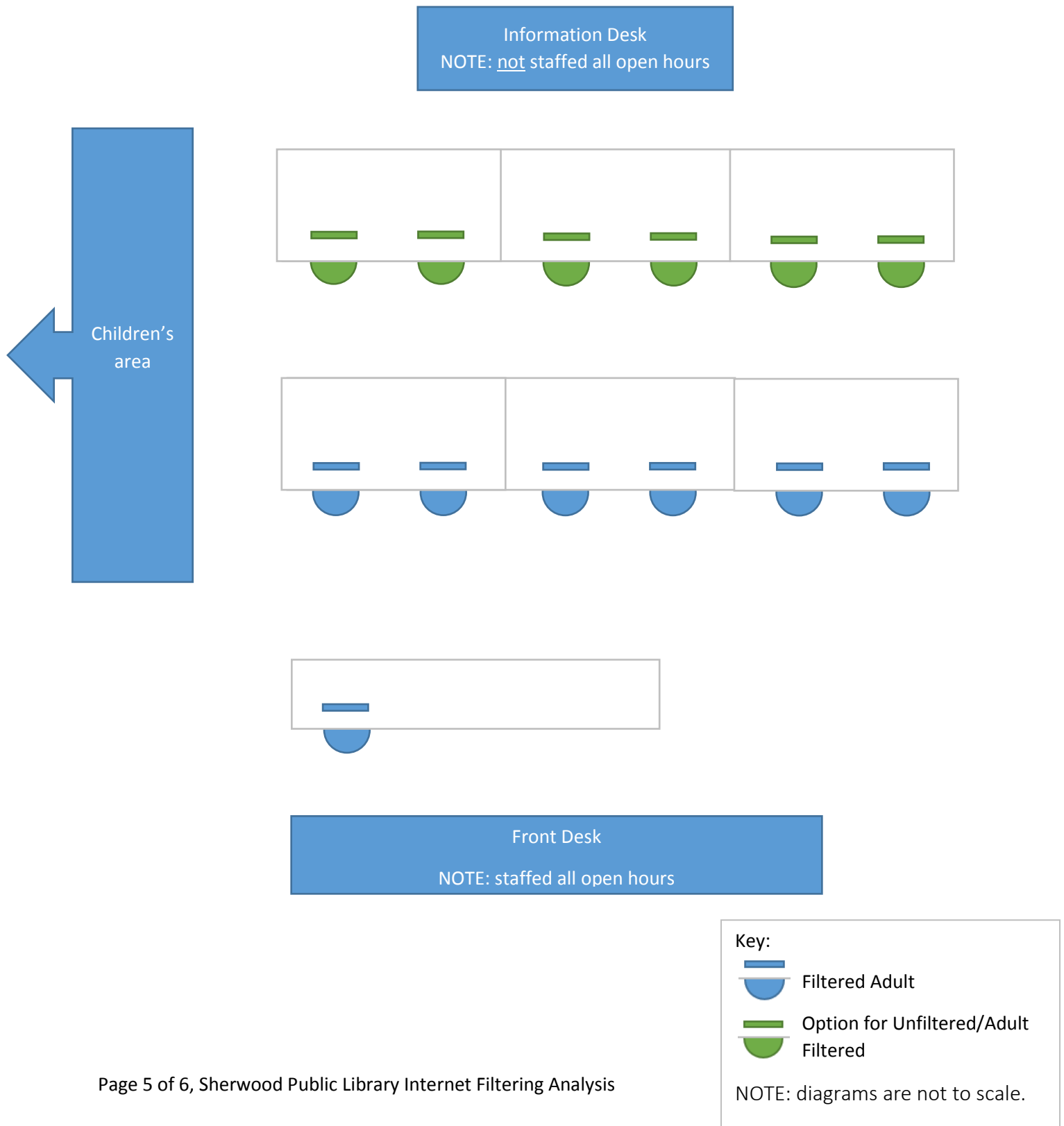
Respectfully submitted,



Adrienne Doman Calkins

APPENDIX

Option 1--Preferred: Turn tables and computers all facing staff at front desk and change internet filtering settings. Outcomes: improved ability to react to patron activity, creates an environmental deterrent to behavior policy infractions, and improves the layout for teaching computer classes.



Option 2: Physical layout stays the same. Change internet filtering settings to reduce exposure to minors while maintaining limited access to unfiltered internet.

